

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A resource provider subsystem ("RPS") secures and combines resource access right data with a universal resource locator (URL) as a secure URL in a web page document. The RPS transmits the web page document with the secure URL including resource access right data, to a web access device ("WAD") via a network. The WAD executes a browser application to display the secure URL of the web page document. A user of the WAD can activate the secure URL to generate a signal. The signal includes the secure URL and is transmitted from the WAD to the resource distribution subsystem ("RDS"). The RDS receives the signal, authenticates the request, and verifies that the resource access right data has not been changed after it was established by the RPS. If the request is authenticated and verified, the RDS uses the resource access right data to determine the rights the WAD and/or user thereof has with respect to the resource. If authorized, the RDS provides access to the resource to the WAD. The resource can include data, text, image(s), applet(s), and/or a downloadable program module. Alternatively, the resource can be a server application optionally programmed to permit the user of the web access device to interact therewith. Through use of the secure URL, the RPS can control access to the resource even though it is hosted at distributed sites of a network.